111

# ¶ By the King.

# A Proclamation concerning the making of Starch, and auoiding the annoyances thereby.

WHereas Our late deare and Royall Father of blessed memory, vpon complaints made, and often renewed vnto him, of the great inconueniences which happened by the conuerting of great quantities of wheat-flowre, Meale, and other things fit for the food of man, into the making of Starch, & for the making of Starch in places vnfit & inconuenient, whereby vnsauoury smels, and noysome stenches did arise, to the great annoyance of His louing Subiects, inhabiting neere vnto, or passing by these places, out of His Princely care to haue a due reformation of these inconueniences; wherein the Common-wealth hath so great an interest, did by his seuerall Proclamations command such directions to be obserued, as vpon mature and deliberate consideration were conceiued, might best tend to these ends; And yet through the wilfulnes of diuers of the Starchmakers, we haue heretofore failed of Our hopes and desires, and the Mischiefes haue rather increased through Our lenity: And whereas vpon an humble petition preferred vnto Our said Father from diuers of the Starchmakers themselues, whereby they were humble suitors vnto His late Maiestie, that if hee would vouchsafe by His Letters Patents, to incorporate them into a body politique to haue a perpetuall succession, and thereby to enable them by the helpe of good Lawes and Ordinances, to gouerne the members of their owne body, that they would not onely submit themselues, but would also be answerable for such a reformation to follow, as should take away all iust cause of further Complaints, Our said Father conceiuing this to be the most probable meanes for reformation, or to leaue them without excuse which would not be reformed, was graciously pleased to incorporate the Starchmakers, and to giue them such power for their gouernment as they did reasonably desire. And the Starchmakers on their parts did vndertake, that they, nor any member of their body, would at any time then-after, make any Starch of wheat-flowre, Meale, or other thing prohibited, but would make the same of Pollard and Bzanne onely, and sell the same at and for reasonable prices. And that they would not set vp or maintaine any Starch-house, or vse the making of any Starch in any places, which by the vnfit situation thereof, or by the ill ordering thereof, might bee an annoyance to others, and if that all others might be prohibited to make Starch to put to sale, who should not submit themselues to become members of their body, and consequenly to be subiect to their gouernment, That then they would with the vttermost of their endeuours discouer all such offenders, and draw them into a way to bee proceeded against for their contempts according to iustice in such sort as should be directed. Wee therefore calling to minde, that the prices of Corne are now growen to much higher rates, then in these latter and cheaper yeeres the same were at, and perceiuing that of late many Tradesmen, out of a greedy desire of gaine, though with the hurt of the Common-wealth, haue taken vpon them to be Starch-makers, and left their former Trades and Occupations, haue resolued to haue an effectuall reformation of the abuses aforesaid, and constantly to put the directions for that purpose formerly giuen, into due execution. And, to the end that what the Starchmakers haue vndertaken on their parts to performe, may be indeed really performed; Wee haue constituted and appointed a Surueyor, who shall be Our sworne Officer and Seruant to that purpose, to ouersee the same in euery part. Now to the end that all Our louing Subiects may take knowledge of Our Royall pleasure herein, Wee doe by this Our present Proclamation straightly charge and command, that no person or persons whatsoeuer, other then such as are o

shall be members of the said Company of Starch-makers, shall presume to attempt, or go about to make any Starch at all, other then for his, her, or their priuate vse, & not to sell. And that no person whatsoeuer, which shall make any Starch, shall make the same of any wheat-flowre, Meale, or other thing then Pollard and Branne onely. That no person whatsoeuer shall set up, maintain or vse any Starch-house, or any vessell for the making of Starch in any place, which for the situation thereof, either in respect of the neerenesse thereof to any Citie or Towne, or other dwellings, or in regard of the neerenesse to any common high way, roade, or ordinary passage of people is, or shall appeare to be noysome to any other. And that no Grocer, Chapman, or other person, who vseth to buy Starch to sell againe, shall buy, vtter, sell, or otherwise barter, or vent any Starch, which they shall know to haue been made by any person who is not a knowne member of the said Company of Starch-makers, so as allwayes the Starch-makers shall be ready to sell the same, at, and for such reasonable prices, as the said Company haue by their Indenture vnder their common Seale heretofore vndertaken, and agreed to sell the same. And that no person presume to sell any Starch, as a Huckster or Hawker from doore to doore in priuate or secret, or otherwise then in their owne proper and open Shops or Warehouses. And that the said Company of Starch-makers shall duely put in execution, the power and authority giuen vnto them, for reformation of the abuses aforesaid. And Our Will and pleasure is, that if any person shall offend hereafter in any of the premisses, or in giuing aide and assistance, to any the said offenders directly or indirectly, Our Will and command is, that Our Commissioners, which wee hereafter shall to that purpose authorize, for the ready hearing and dispatch of all complaints touching the premisses, if wee shall thereto appoint any, or otherwise, all Our Judges and Justices in their seuerall places, shall heare and examine all the complaints which shall bee made against any in that behalfe, and shall inflict such punishment vpon such offenders by imprisonment, or otherwise, as Our Judges, Justices, or Commissioners in their Wisedomes shall thinke fit, hauing respect to the quality of their offences. And if Our Commissioners shall in their good discretions finde any whose offence or misdemeanor, deserueth to be made more exemplary, Our pleasure and command is, That such offenders shall vndergo the Censure and seuerity of Our Court of Starchamber, for the contempt of Our Prerogatiue Royall, in a matter of such consequence, touching the good and benefit of Our people. And to the end Our pleasure and command herein may bee the better effected, wee doe hereby straitly charge and command all and singular Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffes, Baylifes, Constables, Headborroughes, and all other Our Officers and Subiects whatsoeuer, whensoeuer any complaints shall bee brought vnto them, or any of them, of, or for any offence or misdemeanor committed within the limits of their seuerall Iurisdictions, at all times, and from time to time to be ayding and assisting to such as shall at any time be employed in or about the execution of this Our ordinance, and carefully and diligently to do their vttermost endeauours, that this Our Royall command herein signified and expressed, be in all points duly performed. And that they doe not suffer any person or persons whatsoeuer, within any of their Precincts, from and after the publication of this Our Proclamation, to make, or cause to be made, directly or indirectly, any Starch, in any other manner, or in any other place or places within this Our Realme of England, Dominion of Wales, or Port, or Towne of Barwicke, then by such persons, and in such manner, and in such places as are herein directed or intended, but that they vse their vttermost powers and endeauours, by all lawfull meanes to hinder and suppresse the same. And Our further Will & command is, That not onely Our said Commissioners, which are, or shall be appointed by Vs to this purpose, but also all other Our Justices of Peace, Maiors, Sheriffs, Baylifs, and other Our chiefe Officers in all the parts of Our Realme of England, and Dominion aforesaid. and Port and Towne of Barwicke, When the nature and quality of the offence and contempt shal appeare to deserue a more exemplary punishment as aforesaid, shall cause all and euery the offenders against any Branch, Article, or part of this Our Royall Proclamation, to be bound with sureties in good bonds to Our vse, for their appearance before Vs and Our Priuie Counsell, in Our Court of Starre-chamber, there to answere their contempts.

Giuen at Our Court at Greenwich, the thirtieth day of Iune, in the fift yeere of Our Reigne of Great Brittaine, France, and Ireland.

God saue the King.

¶ Imprinted at London by Bonham Norton, and Iohn Bill, Printers to the Kings most Excellent Maiestie. Anno M. DC. XXIX.